

Application number 10/784,613
Amendment dated July 5, 2005
Reply to office action mailed January 4, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-30 will remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 23, and 26 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 17, 23-25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark, United States patent number 5,001,776, in view of Okanobu, United States patent number 5,020,147. Claims 2-16, 18-22, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Okanobu and further in view of Smith, United States patent number 6,714,557. Reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Okanobu. But these references do not show or suggest each and every limitation of this claim. For example, Claim 1 recites "reducing a switching current in the signal path by dynamically changing an impedance of a component in the signal path based on the first signal strength." The cited references do not provide this feature.

The pending office action cites Clark as showing "dynamically changing an impedance of a component in the signal path based on the first signal strength." (See pending office action, page 2, section 3.) But Clark shows changing a bias current based on various signal strengths.

A bias current is not the same as a switching current. One skilled the art understands that a bias current is a DC or quiescent current, while a switching current is a dynamic or transient current that occurs during voltage transitions. (See for example, the pending application, Figure 6 and related discussion.) Accordingly, the cited references do not show or suggest reducing a switching current in the signal path by dynamically changing an impedance of a component in the signal path as required by the claim.

For at least this reason, claim 1 should be allowed.

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Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Okanobu and further in view of Smith. But these references do not teach each and every limitation of this claim. For example, claim 10 recites "while receiving the preamble portion of the signal, dynamically changing a bias current in the signal path based on the first signal strength, and while receiving the data portion of the signal, maintaining the bias current in the signal path." The cited references do not provide this feature.

There is no motivation in Clark to limit changes to a bias current while receiving a preamble, as is required by the claim. Rather, Clark does not appear to discuss changing a bias current during specific signal events, such as a preamble, and not changing the bias current during others, such as during data transmission. The claim in particular only mention making this current modification during reception of a signal. (See for example, claim 1 in Clark.)

For at least this reason, claim 10 should be allowed.

Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Okanobu. But these references do not show or suggest each and every limitation of this claim. For example, Claim 17 recites "dynamically changing a gain of the first circuit based on the first signal strength; and dynamically changing an impedance of a component in the second circuit based on the first signal strength."

The pending office action cites Clark as showing changing an impedance, though appears to be silent regarding a gain change. (See pending office action, page 4, first paragraph.) The cited references do not show or suggest the combination of changing a gain and changing an impedance as required by the claim.

For at least this reason, claim 17 should be allowed.

Other claims

Claim 23 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 26 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 10. Claim 29 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim

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17. The other claims depend on these claims and should be allowed for similar reasons, and for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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